DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
REVIEWED BY VWOLF JR DATE 6/1/82
RDS or XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH: REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED PREPARATORY
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

RESTRICTED

172

R

NEAR EAST RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY

The organization of an agency to direct the program for relief and public works has been recommended by the first interim report of the United Nations Economic Survey Mission for the Middle East in the following terms:

"An agency should be established to organize and, on or after 1 April 1950, direct the programme of relief and public works herein recommended. As a minimum requirement to the successful implementation of the relief and works programmes, the Economic Survey Mission urges that:

(a) Subject to rendering such reports of its activities and accounting for its expenditures to the General Assembly of the United Nations as may be required of it and within the policies established in its terms of reference, the agency should have full autonomy and authority to make decisions within the sphere of activities entrusted to it, including the selection of its subordinate staff and the administration of funds made available to it.

(b) The agency should be located in the Near East.

(c) The personnel and assets of the UNRPR should be turned over to the new agency on 1 April 1950, or as soon thereafter as possible, in order that the functions of direct relief may be directed by the new agency in appropriate relation to the works programme.

(d) The agency should be authorized to counsel with such Near Eastern governments as may so desire concerning measures to be taken by such governments in preparation for the time when United Nations funds for relief and works projects shall no longer be available."

Conversations regarding the detailed method of establishing such an agency have been held with representatives of the UK in Washington, and the following is the recommendation arising from these talks.

At an

At an appropriate juncture in the GA debate on the interim report it will be proposed that the GA appeal for funds and establish an autonomous agency to be known as the Near East Relief and Works Agency under the direction of a Director appointed by and responsible to the GA (General McNaughton of Canada has been suggested as a possible Director). The Director would be assisted by an Advisory Commission of representatives of the US, UK, France and Turkey and would be empowered to recruit a staff to be directly responsible to him. The GA would solicit the assistance and cooperation of the Specialized Agencies of the UN in fields of their competence, and also call upon friendly governments for the services of a technical nature useful to NERWA. NERWA and PCC would be enjoined to cooperate. NERWA would be empowered to administer funds in cooperation with local Near Eastern governments along lines suggested by the ESM report in fields of direct relief and works projects and would also counsel with local governments as to measures such governments should take against the time when funds for relief and work relief were no longer available. It would also be in a position to advise voluntary charitable agencies concerning the best use of private resources available for assistance to the countries concerned.

The relationship between the Director and the Advisory Commission can be most clearly stated by considering the Commissioners as the contact between the Director and the national governments contributing a high percentage of the funds. It is anticipated that the Commissioners would be in direct contact with their governments and that requests for funds and other assistance would channel through them.

The ESM report contemplates expenditures of the order of $53.7 million for direct relief and public works for the 18 months' period ending June 30, 1951, of which $6 million might be met by local governments. It is the recommendation of ESM that no more direct relief should be supplied after December 31, 1950 unless otherwise determined at the Fifth Session of the Assembly following proposals made by the Near Eastern governments concerned, and that the works programme should be continued until June 30, 1951, subject to review at the Fifth Session of the Assembly. It is necessary to consider a reasonable division of the cost of this programme. Tentative thinking looks for the US to share 50% or $26,500,000; the UK perhaps 25% or approximately £5,000,000 useful in the Sterling area, and perhaps 15% from France in terms of francs, useful for the objects of the programme. The balance might be made available by other countries who heretofore have contributed to UNRPR.

It is

It is envisaged that a long-term development agency might grow out of the work of the technical specialists on the staff of NERWA, particularly those in the fields of agriculture and engineering. At the end of the relief and relief works programme some or all of the governments represented on NERWA might continue to cooperate in advising and assisting local governments and local Development Boards in connection with long-term development. In the meantime such advice and assistance would, of course, be afforded by NERWA specialists.

Authority is required to arrange for action by the GA along these lines as reflected in the attached draft resolution and for preliminary steps to be taken looking toward the financing of the programme.

NEA:AZGardiner:red
11/16/49